

Sermon 8.30.26 (Definition Church Sunday Service; Luke 10: 38 - 42)

INTRO

Good morning definition church family so good to see all of you today. Such a blessing to be able to worship in the house of the Lord this morning and open the word of God together. If you are a first time guest I want to give you a special shoutout we are so honored to have you in the room with us today and hope you feel the love of God this morning, also wanna shoutout all of our online watchers or as some people call them our “digital disciples”, we hope you feel like you belong and we hope to see you soon in person. Come on definition church lets give it up for all of our guests.

PAUSE

Amen, Well if we have never met before my name is Zac Hudson and I serve as our College Pastor here at definition church. I preached one Sunday over the summer and I guess I did not screw it up too bad or say anything heretical cause they let me back on the stage. I still managed to finish a little over time on my sermon, but if you talk to any of my college students the idea of getting out of service early is a foreign concept to them like unicorns or bigfoot. But hey yall are the sunday crowd so I get a little bit more time on my clock today, so buckle in. **Space For Laugh**

But in all seriousness I am so thankful for this opportunity to bring the word & just so thankful for a church that does not look at the next generation as something to fear. But as something to rejoice in and uplift.

And because of this church's generosity, faith, prayers, and involvement, we had our kickoff service for our college ministry 2 mondays ago and were able to fill this auditorium with over 250 college students and we had over 140 first time guests. We are just so thankful for what God is doing in our midst both at the Collective & at our church as a whole.

We are in the midst of an exciting season for our church, we got 7DOP & Fasting coming up. All the people fasting for the week gave a half hearted applause *laugh* I was talking to our small group leaders on Monday night and I was saying how during my week long fast I have this weird tendency to lay in my bed on my day off and watch cooking compilations. I guess in my mind if I see food it is the same as eating it. So I basically torture myself willingly, yall pray for me.

But we got 7 days which is gonna be amazing. We got a worship night tonight, we got some outreach stuff going on, build his house campaign is still going strong, next gen ministries are back in full swing. It is an exciting time for our church, but you know, it is so easy as someone on staff here, to look at this time in our church not as an exciting time, but as a busy time.

Calendars are full, meetings are long, lots of people to talk with, and I know I have a temptation to just feel busy. And if I am not careful, in the midst of all of this busyness, I can miss Jesus in the process. And then what happens is I start finding my affirmation in the events going on around me, rather than in Jesus himself.

I dare say a lot of us in this room probably relate to that on some level. Maybe you're not in ministry, but you have sports going on, family things, work events, holidays coming up, you find yourself returning to that "add event" button on your calendar a lot more often recently. And as we are drowning in just this tsunami of busyness, we start grabbing onto everything we can to keep us afloat, except, the very person who can meet us where we are, Jesus. And we start finding our fulfillment, our life, our happiness, from everything around us. Instead of the man who has been looking at us from the beginning, Jesus. If you are taking notes write that down, we will return to that point throughout the rest of this sermon. We are going to look at a story from scripture that exemplifies this point. **Hold Bibles Up**

We are going to be in Luke 10:38 - 42 today if you would go ahead and turn there in your bibles. It'll also be on the screen behind me if you need it.

³⁸ Now as they went on their way, Jesus^[d] entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. ³⁹ And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me." ⁴¹ But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, ⁴² but one thing is necessary.^[e] Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her."

Now whenever we read scripture, we have to make sure we always read in CONTEXT, say CONTEXT. So when we read we gotta make sure we read in what? Context is key anytime that you are reading scripture. You can't just take something out of the bible and make it your life verse, it may be a verse about God's judgement on Israel in the old testament, and I don't know if that's the best verse to define your life by.

Context

The context of this story is very important, right before this Jesus is teaching to a crowd the story of the good samaritan. To summarize that story, there's a dude who gets brutally beaten by robbers on the side of the road, and all of these important people pass by his dying body refusing to help him, then a dude who would have been classified as an enemy of this man helps him and houses him. So one of Jesus' points is when you see someone in need of help DO SOMETHING.

Then right before that story Jesus has been doing ministry for a while but he finally decides to send out the disciples to do some ministry of their own in the cities. Going into people's homes, doing miracles, healing the sick. So Jesus is saying when it is time for ministry, GO DO SOMETHING & GO that is our context. Those are words that should invoke us to action, and that is super important, because what this sermon is NOT is a sermon against work or working hard.

Work Is Biblical

Explain

- Part of who God is is a creator, and as beings who are made in his image, we are created to be beings who work. If we look over the entire course of scripture it is full of people who worked. Jesus was a carpenter, Paul made sails, the disciples were fishermen.

Argue

Look at Genesis 2: 15 “The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.”

Illustrate

This is before the serpent, before sin, before the fall, so in God's perfect version of earth, we were working and stewarding his creation.

Apply

Here is why this is important, because the easy temptation here with this story is to make it a vs. story, a mary vs. martha story, a work vs. sitting story, a right vs. wrong story, and it is easy to read that but it becomes unrealistic when we apply it to our lives. If we are told we should be sitting with Jesus all the time and that work or any level of busyness is sinful. Then most of us won't stop working, we will just stop sitting with Jesus, and that can't be the solution.

So this passage is not about Mary vs. Martha. This passage is about the desire within us to be Martha before Mary

Explain

In the passage, Martha is doing everything, she is serving the people, cooking, cleaning, welcoming the people in, making sure they are comfy and cared for. She is doing everything for Jesus, but does not notice Jesus. Jesus' literal presence became secondary to what Martha could do for Jesus. And man, this is such a temptation in our day and age.

Illustrate

If we are not careful we can begin to treat our relationship with God like a math equation, where enough times in church + enough bible studies = no more problems. This is us trying to be Mary before Martha. Where if we think we can do enough things for God, then he will slide us some bread crumbs of blessing every once in a while off of his big table up in heaven. And so we go to church, we worship, we turn off the secular music, we read our bible, not out of love for God, but out of desire for blessing, and the problem with is that scripture is clear, we were saved, for a relationship, not a reward.

Argue

For Christ also suffered^[a] once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, - **1 Peter 3:18**

Ephesians 2:13 "But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ."

Colossians 1:21–22 "And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind... he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death..."

Apply

Are there rewards in the kingdom of heaven, absolutely, can God save our marriage, absolutely, can he set us free from addiction, absolutely, you're looking at a living testimony of the faithfulness of Jesus. If you had told me when I was 16 at one of the lowest points of my life that I would be standing on a stage doing what I am doing right now I would have never believed you. But if I get my wires crossed and start thinking that I earned this because of anything I have done and not everything that he has done then I have missed it.

If my identity is based on standing here behind this pulpit, and how many people I am standing in front of, and not here **Get on Knees** Knees down, bible open, heart abandoned, mouth closed. If I am not basing my identity on this posture then I will spend a long time trying to impress God instead of letting him speak directly to my heart.

And I dare say, a lot of you, you have spent quite a lot of time fighting from up here, fists up, ready to attack. And you may have fought hard for a while, but you feel yourself slipping, lies getting a little louder, temptations getting a little stronger, and almost all of you in this room, your temptation to be like Mary is not a pulpit, it may not even have anything to do with church.

But there is some part of our identity that we have given over to distraction that Jesus is just saying, son, daughter, bring it to me, lay it at my feet, and just let me speak to it.

Maybe its performance at work “If I just work a little harder and make a little more then I wont be so stressed about what could happen”

Maybe its performance in singleness “If I just looked different, acted differently, had a different body, then I could find someone to love me”

Maybe its performance in your kids “If they accomplish this thing, become this athlete, or this type of student, then I can feel proud of myself”

Maybe its performance of anger and bitterness “If that person had not done this, then I wouldn’t be in this position, I’d be 10, 20, 30 steps ahead of where I am now”

I don’t know what that thing is for you, but what I do know is that we serve a God who is desperate to speak towards our struggles and problems, he knows we feel an anxiety that if we don’t make enough money we won’t survive, he knows we’re frustrated that we’re still single, he knows we put a lot of expectations for our own success on our kids, he knows why we’re angry at the past. He knows everything, inside and out, the things no one knows about us, he knows, and the invitation remains the same, come, sit, and listen.

Your primary source of identity is not what you do for God. It is who you are too God

Explain

You know there is a lot of pressure put onto pastors in America, oftentimes it seems if the pastor can’t reach someone, then they’re probably a lost cause. Which I understand, it should be the primary voice in an organization that can generate the most return on investment. But the kingdom of God is not bent towards American culture, the kingdom of God is upside down. Because you know what is so much more powerful than a pastor with the greatest sermon ever written. A person who knows where their identity lies.

Illustrate

Jesus did not do a whole lot of preaching during his time on earth. He did preach, he preached killer sermons. But you know what he spent most of his time doing during his ministry, traveling, being around people, going into people's homes. And people who would have been opposed to his teaching would naturally be drawn towards Jesus. Because it wasn't just what Jesus did that made people flock to him, it was who he was. He had an unshakable identity rooted in the fact that he was the son of God. Jesus' public ministry was an overflow of his private identity.

Argue

2 Cor. 9:8 "And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will overflow in every good work."

Apply

There is an invitation for all of us to live in an overflow, to where our work, the ball field, our job, our kids schools, aren't places we look for affirmation, but are places where God begins to use us. Overflow seems like a churchy word, but basically what it means is being filled beyond capacity to where things start pouring out. If we root ourselves in sitting with the Lord, we will start overflowing with love for our spouse instead of anger. If we root ourselves in the Lord, we will start overflowing with generosity, instead of envy, if we root ourselves in the Lord we will start overflowing with freedom instead of addiction.

You wanna put hell on notice? You wanna be the type of person that has their life changed by Jesus? You want to make demons shake and darkness tremble. Plant yourself on your knees every day for 20 years, no attention on you, no image to uphold, just you and the Lord. A true Martha can work for decades behind the scenes with no one ever seeing them or knowing about them and still have a glad spirit. How? Because Jesus is their reward, they don't need the affirmation of men.

If you have ever tried to sit with the Lord, you know at times it can be humbling and intimidating, so I want to give us some practical advice into how we can learn to not just sit, but desire to sit with the Lord.

First, **Just Sit**

Explain

This is not some holy metaphor, literally find a spot in your home, and just sit with the Lord. For me, I have a chair in the corner of my room, and when I wake up, I just sit there. Physically find a space that you can meet God.

Next **Talk & Listen**

- A lot of us spend a lot of time talking to God, but not a lot of time listening to what God has to say. We like to leave God a voice mail of our problems but we're okay if we don't hear back. We have to learn to talk and listen, now I will come back to talking in a second. But what does listening look like? I think most of the time the reason we are not good at listening is because we give up the moment it gets hard. Like our entire spiritual journey, we can't expect to be perfect at first. If I am being real, I still struggle with this, I get about 5 minutes into sitting in silence listening for the Lord to speak and I am about ready to give up. But again, I have to counteract this mindset that I have to be doing something to earn a word from the Lord. If I just show up, every day, without fail, over time it'll get easier and easier. Prayer is not a monologue, it is a dialogue. Super practical here. Start with 5 minutes, 5 minutes no distractions, phone away, tv off, just us and the Lord. then do that for a week, then the next week, increase by one minute.

Okay but if prayer is a dialogue, what am I supposed to be saying, **EVERYTHING**

Say Everything